

the strength of some intermediates between *Petrochelidon l. lunifrons* and *P. l. melanogastra*.

According to Mr. Miller, several of the resident birds treated are almost exactly intermediate between subspecies of the southwestern United States and their representatives in Central Mexico, making determination difficult. There are also many northern immigrants in the list. Catalogues such as this are of much value to the student of geographical distribution, as well as to others, particularly when the identifications are made with the care that these seem to have been.—H. C. O.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

### The Speed of Birds.

EDITORS OF THE AUK:—

*Dear Sirs:*—The enormous discrepancy between the speed assigned to small birds by those who have observed them at night, through telescopes, and the speed these same birds exhibit on ordinary occasions seems to require some explanation. Those who have watched birds from a train are well aware that a train moving from thirty to forty miles an hour will pass most of the small birds that chance to be flying in the same direction, while trains traveling not over fifty miles an hour have been noted as being faster than ducks. Ducks are celebrated for the speed of their flight, and among them the Old Squaw is especially rapid; and yet the noted speed of ducks is from forty to sixty miles an hour, and the most enthusiastic gunner would hardly credit a Quandy going down wind with more than seventy-five miles an hour. Homing Pigeons are exceptionally fast flyers and yet in 1901 the record for young birds flying a distance of 150 miles was made by a score of 5346 feet per minute. That this is extremely rapid is shown by records of 2207 and 3249 feet per minute for distances of from 110 to 150 miles, the number of birds participating being from 117 to 269. In view of these facts one may be pardoned for suspecting some error in calculations that ascribe a speed of one hundred and thirty miles per hour to small birds.

Very respectfully,

F. A. LUCAS.